

# The Lexington Intelligencer.

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## Danger Ahead.

EDITOR INTELLIGENCER:

It is one of the boasts of the democracy that it has no secrets. There is no private chamber where the councils of the party are held; but, being the party of the people, its discussions of public questions are open, and the humblest member is entitled to the fullest information on every point of party policy and management. Yea, the whole world may hear and know all that it does and proposes to do.

If there is anything concealed, if there is a hidden motive, if there is something aimed at that is not fully expressed, then whatever is concealed, or hidden, or disguised, is not democratic.

Therefore no apology is offered for this writing, in which it is attempted to discuss some questions which seem to the writer to be of vital interest to the party; nor even for the intrusion of his views on the public notice, for these questions the humblest has a right to speak and the truth and aptness of what is presented shall be its only justification.

In discussing the nomination of state officers, which is now the overshadowing topic, there crops out a spirit, or intention, or design, on the part of some, that seems to me to be full of danger—seems to threaten the defeat of the party in Missouri, and crown a glorious party record with inglorious rout and humiliation.

The editorials of the St. Republic of late, especially in the issues of Monday and Tuesday of this week, shadow forth this danger. The ostensible design of the articles in question is to defeat Messrs. Cook and Allen for renomination for the offices now held by them.

This is very unusual conduct for that paper. Indeed it is a rare one for any paper. When a metropolitan paper pursues such a course, especially one usually so very uncommittal on this subject as the Republic, there must be a deep and controlling motive for it.

The Republic admits, or asserts rather, that both of these gentlemen are honest and competent, and good, loyal democrats, but still it unqualifiedly opposes their nomination, not in order to nominate better men, but strictly to defeat them.

I think it proper to say here, that I do not advocate the nomination of either of these gentlemen, but am referring to the peculiar attitude of the Republic in their cases in order to make more plain the matter to which I most seriously object; and I have chosen the Republic's editorials for subjects of comment because it is the most prominent and influential mouthpiece of those who are advocating a course of action by the democratic state convention that in my opinion is wrong in principle, foolish in contrivance and sure to end in disaster; and because the editorials referred to indicate most plainly what is intended.

The contention is that the whims of certain classes should be given the greatest consideration in making our nominations; that certain classes of voters will be offended if we do not make our nominations to suit them, and will not give them their support; that everything must be done in accordance with a certain Missouri idea, whose definition is left to the imagination.

When we have analyzed the matter we find that these classes are soft-shell republicans, mugwumps, and political odds and ends, who are supposed to exist in vast numbers somewhere, who have been hidden out all of these years, and will come to light on election day.

Now what object is giving any consideration to any other class of people but genuine democrats in making democratic nominations, or formulating democratic platforms. If this nominee of the democratic convention, which meets in Jefferson City July 10th, are elected, they will be elected by democratic votes, and none other but stalwart, sturdy democrats.

This thing of getting republican votes is all humbug. We can only hope for republican votes by abandoning our principles or nominating re-

publicans. For every republican vote which we get by deviating from the straight line, we will lose three hundred democratic ones. For every mugwump we conciliate by turning down a stalwart democrat, we will disgust a dozen of the faithful.

How sensible republicans must laugh to hear the nonsense talked about their people voting for the democratic ticket on the grounds proposed.

Of course we would like to make proselytes—would like to have many republicans see the truth as we do, and become good democrats; and there is hope that many of them will eventually join us when they see how far toward real imperialism their leaders are carrying them. Such a change would be honorable; but for a republican who believes in the doctrines of his party to come over to the democrats where those doctrines are despised, and vote for our nominees on the ground that they are honest, would be a reflection on his own party which not one of them was ever yet heard to make.

There is nothing that will invite as sure defeat as for the convention to act in the spirit indicated by the Republic's editorials.

What heart for the fight will any good democrat have who feels that his party has been more considerate for its hereditary enemy, and more tender for those who have deserted in time of need than for him who was always true?

Let every democrat who loves his party, and believes that in the supremacy of its principles the hope of constitutional government rests, turn from such advisers, and appeal to those who have been elected delegates to the state convention to assert their manhood and be true to the interests of the party. Let us beg them to remember that they represent democrats and that their action must be ratified by democrats.

Mr. Folk has well won his nomination and it should be promptly given him, as he was not made dictator of the party, as so many of his "fool friends" would try to persuade him. He has earned the nomination for governor of the state of Missouri, a great honor for any man, and in the discharge of the duties of that office if elected, he will find ample scope for the exercise of all his powers. But there are other men in Missouri, and other offices for them to fill, and the stalwart democracy of the state are capable of exercising as good judgment in filling them as in filling the governor's chair. A man in trying to grab too much sometimes loses all. One is not compelled to be a fool in order to be honest. Modesty is always becoming, and sits most gracefully on him who is most exalted.

The democrats of Missouri love fair play. If Messrs. Cook and Allen are defeated before the people in a fair contest with their opponents all will bow in submission. If they are the choice of the democrats, but are sacrificed to the delusion of republican support, or the malignity of mugwumpery, the whole ticket will suffer.

It will devolve upon the convention to see that no error is made along this line, for on its determination, justly or unjustly, may depend victory or defeat.

WILLIAM YOUNG.

Lexington, Mo., June 18, 1904.

## The Electric Line.

Odessa Democrat.

The Lexington Suburban Railway is a certainty. The people of Lexington and Lafayette county mean business this time and a subscription taken this week amounts to thousands of dollars. The people are awake to their interest and are giving the project the support it deserves. A bridge will span the Big Muddy at Lexington, and the electric line will be run to Lexington Junction in Ray county and perhaps to Odessa, tapping the Santa Fe and Wabash on the north and the C. & A. on the south.

Odessa wants this line and if the proper effort is made, can probably get it. Let's make a pull for it. Come to the Commercial Club tonight. Something doing.

Invitations have been issued announcing the coming marriage of Arthur Fuhr and Miss Louise Cook, both of Higginville. The marriage will be solemnized June 22.

## Death of Mrs. Augusta Chambers.

Died, Wednesday, at the home of E. B. Farley, in Sedalia, after a brief illness, Mrs. Augusta Stokes Chambers, aged 70 years.

The announcement of the death of this much beloved woman came as a surprise and shock to the community, for it was not generally known that she was in ill health. Ten days ago Mrs. Chambers left Lexington for a visit with relatives and friends in Southeastern Missouri, stopping on the way at Sedalia to spend a day or two with the family of E. B. Farley. Here she prolonged her visit from day to day owing to indisposition which finally resulted in jaundice and anemia causing her death. On last Monday her condition became serious enough to cause her son, Dr. Chambers, and her daughter, Miss Little Chambers, to be summoned. She grew rapidly worse and died Wednesday morning.

Mrs. Chambers was born in Cape Girardeau, Missouri, in 1834. She was married to Dr. P. H. Chambers in 1864. At that time she was teaching school in Dover and Dr. Chambers was practicing medicine there. A few years later they made Lexington their home, and Dr. Chambers died here about seven years ago.

Mrs. Chambers leaves four brothers and a sister: R. W. and T. C. Stokes, of Malden, Mo., Charles E. Stokes, of Kansas City, W. C. Stokes of Kennett, Mo., and Mrs. R. D. Harrison, of Kennett. Her children living are: Mrs. Sallie H. Cooper, of Brazil, Dr. J. Q. Chambers, of Kansas City, and Miss Lucretia V. Chambers of this city. The step-children are Dr. P. H. Chambers, of Denver; Rev. Wallace C. Chambers, of Texas, and Kent C. Chambers, of Philadelphia.

The remains were brought to the home of Mrs. H. C. Wallace Wednesday afternoon. The public funeral service were held at the Presbyterian church Friday morning at 10 o'clock, Rev. Claggett, of Sedalia, officiating.

Mrs. Chambers was a noble woman, known and loved by everybody. She was singularly devoted to her family, her home and her church, and in these she found her happiness. Her virtues were of the unobtrusive sort, but few have occupied a larger place in the affections of those who came to know her well.

## Death of Louis Hays.

Died, at the home of his father in this city, Sunday morning, Louis E. Hays, son of Mr. and Mrs. R. E. Hays, aged 33 years.

Mr. Hays had been living in Dallas, Texas, for several years and returned home about three months ago on account of his health. He was a pharmacist, and fifteen years ago was in the employ of Leroy Farmer of this city. He went from here to Kansas City where he practiced his profession until about three years ago, when he went Texas. He had been in declining health for several years. He sought restoration by ranch life on the western plains, but to no avail. He had grown steadily worse since he came home.

The funeral services took place at the Episcopal church in this city Tuesday morning at 10 o'clock. Interment in Machpelah.

## Death of Mrs. Willson.

The Kansas City Star of Friday night tells of the suicide of Mrs. Charles B. Willson, of Kansas City. The deed was the result of a divorce suit, instituted by the husband on the ground of incompatibility of temper, which was to have been called at Independence Friday.

Mrs. Willson was known in Lexington twenty-five or thirty years ago. She was the elder daughter of Jesse T. Hollis, president of the Baptist College when that institution was located in Old Town. On the breaking out of the war he went to Columbia where he died. Mrs. Hollis returned to Lexington after the war, and was a teacher in the Baptist College. Her daughter, Nannie, married Charles B. Willson about twenty-five years ago. She leaves a family of six children, in age from 7 to 20 years.

Misses Florence Arnold and Mary Smith went to Kansas City Thursday morning for a few days visit.

## Peaches on the Missouri River Hills.

What pleasant memories of the past these words awaken! Peaches on the Missouri River hills—"bluffs" we called them in boyhood days, back in the sixties, down into old Gasconade county. Just below the town of Herman, on a ridge running south from the river's shore was our father's orchard of 4 or 500 trees. Early York, E. Tillotson, Troth's Early, Baltimore Beauty, Old Mixon Free, Crawford's Early and Late, Snow, Columbia Heath, Lemon, Blood and old Mixon Clings are some of the varieties I recall. Hold, there was one other, of which no one knew the name, a free stone, large, round, white overcast with a dull pink, whose juicy flesh was the tenderest and sweetest I ever ate. When towards the close of its season the fruit dropped from the tree, it would flatten on the ground like a lump of dough. Gingerly we boys would lift them up out of the grass, and suck their soft delicious, honey flavored tissue with a relish such as boys only enjoy.

In peach gathering time we boys would gather sassafras and peach leaves, which were used by the men to put in the bottom of the boxes and between the layers of peaches. All kinds of boxes were used. Soap, candle, shoe, cracker and any other holding from one half bushel to over two bushel, and then sent to St. Louis, where they often sold for \$3 to \$4 per bushel. \$2,500 worth were sold one season. No peach crop failed until that fateful New Year's eve in '64, when not only all buds were killed, but all trees were injured above the snow, which lay about ten inches deep. In '66 a delegation of sixty members of the American Pomological Society, (then holding its meeting in St. Louis) came up to visit this orchard, which at the time was rented by our uncle, the late Professor George Haesman, and I saw a peach there measured on the tree, 12 inches in circumference. Years before this I remember seeing on a mantel in our setting-room, preserved in alcohol in a large glass jar, three peaches which were said to have measured 13 inches. But enough of these reminiscences. Some of the lessons I learned during the first twenty-eight years of my life on the old homestead I will try to give as briefly as possible.

I noticed that on our river hills the grass and also wheat started earlier in spring and grew later in fall than that only a few miles away from the river, and that (after '64) we often had a fair crop of peaches when two or three miles from the river there were few or none. Then there was an island in the river, three miles above town, where it was said peaches never failed. Why was this? The river surely exerted a beneficial influence. But how? Seeing the fog gather and float or being driven over the hills showed that the soil, trees and plants adjacent to the river received more moisture and also caused evaporation to a less extent than in localities out of the reach of these fogs. And besides fog there is a heavy invisible evaporation of the water going on during the heat of the day, and to some extent during the night, summer and winter, which moisture is in part, at least, deposited on the river hills and valleys.

Still, moisture alone was not a sufficient cause. Elevation also had some influence, because we know in riding across country at night the air on the hills feels warm, while that of the valleys is cool. There was yet another cause. The temperature near the river is less subject to extremes, on account of the water's modifying influence, it cooling the atmosphere in warm weather, thus giving a more equable temperature. Another advantage these hills possess is in the sandy nature and depth of the soil and good natural drainage. The prime factor, however, is the extra moisture derived from the river. Since '78, when I moved to Lexington, peaches failed frequently, but on the river hills here budded varieties produced almost a full crop last year, whilst one and a half miles away there were scarcely any. Frequently have I been asked "Why is it that peaches (and other fruits) fail more often than 30 and 40 years ago? There

are two reasons for this? One is the gradual loss, by washing, of the top layer of soil called "humus," which not only furnished all the necessary plant food, but absorbed and retained moisture, admitted air and warmth, provided sub-drainage and prevented the surface from compacting better than the surface soil we now have. Another perhaps more important one is the shifting and distribution of the rainfall. The rainfall averages about the same now as then, but the distribution in my opinion is not the same. In my boyhood days we fished with net and line in our branch, which contained a large "swimming hole" and spring running the year round. The hills were then mostly covered with timber and a heavy undergrowth of brush. Leaves lay in places a foot in depth and beneath them a loose, deep humus, the remains of rotted leaves and limbs which had dropped for centuries. No grass sod to hungrily drink in the rains or run them off. This humus allowed the rain to sink rapidly into the soil. The layer of leaves prevented rapid evaporation, so that there was a continual instead of intermittent evaporation and a steady underground flow of water issuing as springs throughout the year, cooling and moistening the atmosphere and producing more frequent rains. In time the forests and undergrowth were cleared away, the soil plowed, humus washed away, grass sod appeared in woods grazed by cattle, which also compacted the soil, so when heavy rains now occur the plowed soil and sod shed most of the water and it rushes off carrying with it the best of the soil, allowing only a scant supply of water to enter the soil to feed wells and springs. Now when it rains it pours during the first months of summer and later, the water having rushed off, our branches and springs dry up, the lack of moisture causing hot winds and droughts during the latter part of summer. This cuts both ways, like a two edged sword. The wet cool weather in May and June prevents perfect pollination or causes the fruit to drop, and blight and root rot follow in its wake. The drought later on allows hordes of injurious insects full sway to multiply and injure the fruit, and the drought itself weakens plants and trees, causing winter-killing of buds and often of plants and trees. All fruit growers know that peach buds can endure a much lower temperature some years than in others. I have known them to be killed at temperatures ranging from 11 to 25 degrees below zero. After a dry summer and fall peach buds cannot endure as low a temperature as after a wet one.

Peach trees should be cultivated, the limbs cut back frequently and the fruit thinned. All these things combined give vigor, sap and consequent hardiness. The hardiness of buds in different varieties varies also. In our old peach orchard there was one seedling which had sprouted from the roots of a decayed budded tree. One year it was the only tree which bore a full crop of fruit. Boy like it attracted my attention and puzzled me. I noticed its large petaled blossoms and found that most of the budded varieties had small petals. I came to the conclusion that the large petals which, on dissecting a bud, I found curled and folded around and over the embryo peach, formed a thicker coating than the small petals of budded varieties and therefore protected it more from cold and sudden thawing. Since then I noticed that our hardest budded varieties such as Hales Early, Early Louise, E. Rivers, Amsten, Ark. Traveler, E. York, Mamie Ross, and others have large petals, while the tender varieties like Elberta, Henrietta, Stump and others have small petals. In addition to above hardy varieties the following are next in hardiness and of better quality: Greensboro, Champlin, Crosby, Newington Cling, Old Mixon Free, Mixon Cling, Ward's Late and Salway.

In conclusion let me warn inexperienced planters against setting peach trees as fillers between apple trees. The peach grows too fast here for that. I can show peach trees planted two years ago as one year 5-6 ft. trees which last fall measured 11 ft. high, 10 ft. spread and 9 in. circumference. A body at 2 ft. above ground. Peach trees seen by me in Maryland—five years old, we can beat here in size in three years. Besides, peach trees are not as short lived as they are reputed to be. I have known Crawford's Late to be thirty years old and many others twenty-five years and over.

CHAS. TURNER

Read at the June meeting, '04, of the Mo. State Hort. Society at St. Louis.

## Council Proceedings.

The city council held its regular session Monday night.

Reports of officers were read, received and filed.

Claims for the month of May were allowed.

Bids for printing from the New and Intelligencer were opened and the News was awarded the contract.

Bill of the Electric Light Company was allowed minus \$19.87 for lights out.

It was moved and carried that the Water Street scale be abolished and moved to Old Town; also moved and carried that property owners on 16th St., between South and State Sts., be notified to put down either first or second class sidewalks wherever necessary; also that property owners on Main St. between 8th and 13th Sts., lay first class sidewalks wherever necessary.

An ordinance was passed making the county road from line of State St. to present city limits, an extension of 17th St.; also an ordinance passed establishing a grade on 17th St.

Council adjourned to meet June 23.

## A New Firm.

On Saturday, Douglas Meng and Claude Marquis purchased the Lexington News taking possession at once. The trade had been in process of negotiation for some time, but the announcement was a surprise to most of the friends of both of these gentlemen and to the friends of the paper.

The News was founded more than sixteen years ago by Frank and Edwin Bowman. Some three or four years ago Edwin Bowman disposed of his interest and went to St. Louis to live. Frank Bowman, who has been in newspaper work all his life, continued to conduct the paper until the present time.

The new firm is composed of two young men well and favorably known throughout the county. While Mr. Meng has done but little newspaper work, he is a pleasing and fluent writer, whose articles from time to time have appeared in the current magazines. Mr. Marquis is a practical printer and is thoroughly familiar with the routine and details of newspaper and job office. Both are courteous gentlemen, worthy of the success which their friends confidently expect of them.

## The Memorial Services.

On Sunday afternoon several of the fraternal orders of this city united in conducting memorial service at the graves of their dead. They met at their several halls, and marched to the cemetery bearing their society emblems and flowers. At the cemetery John Taubman in a brief address explained the purpose of this annual observance. Dr. Riggs offered prayer after which the Woodmen choir led in a familiar hymn. (Rev. J. W. Howell) then delivered an eloquent short address upon the immortality of the soul. After another song the several fraternal orders formed and marched to the graves of the dead of their own orders, where they deposited flowers and observed the ritual prescribed for such occasions.

The attendance was probably fifteen hundred or two thousand, many of the people of the city who are not members of these orders having joined in the observance of this day as decoration day. The orders participating were: The Knights of Pythias, Orion Lodge No. 45, I. O. O. F., Guttenburg Lodge No. 323, I. O. O. F., Lexington Aerie 243, F. O. E., Woodman of the World.

## Coroner's Inquest.

The man killed Monday by the train was J. E. Helm, commonly known as Doc Helm, who lived near Myrick with his brother. At the coroner's inquest this morning the engineer and fireman of the passenger which struck him and the conductor and two brakemen of the freight on which he rode were examined. It is supposed that the man was asleep on the track. When struck he was completely covered by two sacks which he carried and so was not seen until too late. The verdict of the jury was as follows: We the jury find that the deceased met his death by being struck by an engine on the Missouri Pacific railway track near Winton, Lafayette county, Mo.